The Report ON THE Status OF Women & Girls IN CALIFORNIAM

LOS ANGELES COUNTY OVERVIEW
2014

MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles County Overview

2014 marks the third consecutive year that Mount St. Mary's College has produced its Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™. This year, for the first time, Mount St. Mary's College has created a supplement to the Report that looks at the status of women and girls right here in Los Angeles County.

Mount St. Mary's is the only women's college in the City of Los Angeles, with an 89-year history of developing women leaders. Our commitment to community service and social justice is rooted in the mission of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. At the Mount, we have an inherent interest in the forces that shape women's lives — especially in Los Angeles County. It is our hope that this overview brings awareness to inequities that persist for women and girls locally, and inspires action to ensure such inequities do not prevent women and girls from pursuing their dreams and achieving full participation in society.

Los Angeles County: An Overview

os Angeles County is the most populous county in the United States and more diverse than California. It is home to more than 25% of the state's population—nearly 10 million people. Women and girls represent more than half of the county's population and experience many of the same challenges as do women throughout the state.



- Even though more women than men are covered by health insurance, one in five women in Los Angeles County still don't have healthcare coverage.
- Educational attainment remains tightly tied to poverty.
 More than 40% of Los Angeles County women 25 years or older, who have less than a high school education, now live in poverty.
- Women are employed in most science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) positions at lower rates than men, and also fall lower within employment ranks in terms of pay, profession and supervisory roles.
- Women and girls of color experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence, homicides and incarceration among all women.
- Women are underrepresented in Los Angeles County and municipal government.

However:

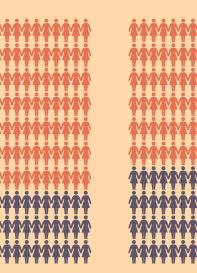
- A greater proportion of women than men in Los Angeles County under the age of 45 now hold highereducation degrees.
- The number of women-owned firms in the county has increased by roughly 25% in the last decade.
- More than half of the female immigrants in Los Angeles County have become naturalized citizens.

Los Angeles County: Report Highlights

Demographics

Los Angeles County is more diverse than the state of California as a whole.

Women and girls of color make up 70% of Los Angeles County's female population, compared with 60% for California. Twenty-three percent of them are under the age of 18. At 47%, Latinas are the most populous female segment, followed by white, Asian American and African American. The demographics in Los Angeles County continue to evolve. In 2010, more than 60% of live births were to Latinas. And the percentage of Los Angeles County women who have never been married is now higher than that statewide.



Los Angeles County

women and girls of color

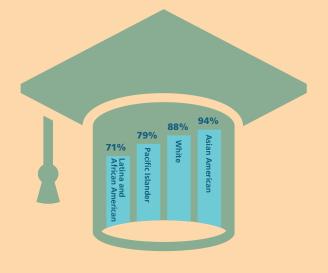
State of California

women and girls of color

Education

Latinas and African American girls represent the majority of Los Angeles County's K-12 student population, yet they possess the County's lowest graduation rates.

While Latinas and African American girls represent 74% of the county's K-12 public school population, their high school graduation rates trail those of Asian American (94%), white (88%) and Pacific Islander (79%) female students. The graduation rate of both Latinas and African American girls is 71%. With the exception of biology, girls scored lower in proficient or advanced levels on college-preparatory STEM courses than did boys. However, a greater proportion of women than men under the age of 45 now hold higher-education degrees.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
RATES of Latinas and African
American girls trail those of other
female students.

Employment and Earnings

Los Angeles County women earn less compared with their male counterparts, especially when it comes to STEM careers.

Los Angeles County women earn less in every occupational category compared with their male counterparts. The greatest earnings disparities are in computer science, engineering and science — the STEM professions — and among healthcare practitioners and technical occupations. In Los Angeles County, the earnings gap between men and women is significantly lower than that statewide — not because women are earning more, but because men are earning so much less than the state median salary. Unemployment rates for African Americans and Latinas were higher than the county average for all races.



Los Angeles County women

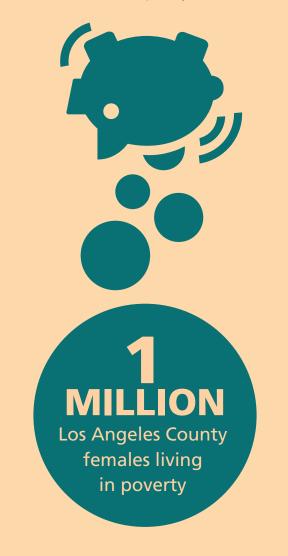
EARN LESS IN EVERY OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY

compared with their male counterparts.

Poverty

A third of all females living in poverty in Los Angeles County are girls under the age of 18.

There are 1 million Los Angeles County females living in poverty: 63% of them are Latina, 31% are under the age of 18, and 9% are under the age of five. Forty-two percent of women 25 years and older, who have less than a high school education, now live in poverty. Families headed by only women are more likely than all other families to live below the official poverty threshold.



Political Leadership

Women comprise more than 50% of the county population, yet account for less than 25% of all seats in local and state government.

Since 2005, California has dropped from 10th place to 19th place in the number of women serving in state legislative office. Only four of the 13 state senators and three of the 25 state assemblymembers representing Los Angeles County are women. As of March 2014, only one of the county's five supervisors is a woman. As of fall 2013, among the county's 88 municipalities, 18% had women serving as mayors. Out of 285 city council members in all of Los Angeles County, 22% were female. And in the county's biggest city, only one woman serves as an elected official in the City of Los Angeles.



Business Leadership

A rapidly growing number of women own their own businesses in Los Angeles County.

There are approximately 432,300 women-owned businesses in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, a 25% increase between 2002 and 2013. Out of the total number of private businesses in Los Angeles County, 30% were owned by women. Most of these companies are small businesses, with 89% having no paid employees. Women own more than half of all healthcare and social-assistance businesses in the county.



There are approximately

432,300

women-owned businesses in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, a

25% increase

between 2002 and 2013.

Physical Health

One in every five women in Los Angeles County still lack healthcare coverage.

Twenty percent of the county's women have no healthcare insurance, compared with 16% statewide and 13% nationally. Obesity remains a great concern in California. While nearly a quarter of all Los Angeles County women are obese, the highest obesity rates are found among African American women and Latinas. Maternal death and infant mortality rates are highest among African American women. Compared with the average life expectancy (82 years) for Los Angeles County women and men, Asian/Pacific Islander women have the longest lifespan (88), while African American women have the shortest (79).



An estimated

200/0

of all Los Angeles County
women have

NO HEALTH INSURANCE.

Mental Health

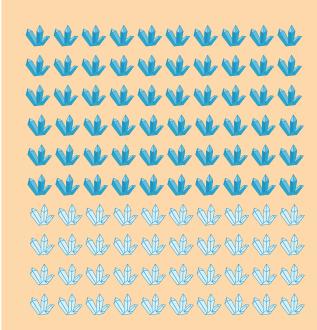
More girls than boys in Los Angeles County seek treatment for methamphetamine and inhalant abuse.

Girls represent 60% of those treated in Los Angeles County for methamphetamine and inhalant abuse, surpassing treatment rates for alcohol, cocaine and other substance abuse. Overall, Los Angeles County has a higher percentage of both boys and girls in drug-use treatment compared with other counties in California.

Girls represent

60%

of those treated in Los Angeles County for methamphetamine and inhalant abuse.



Violence

Intimate partner violence continues to affect women and girls disproportionately in Los Angeles County.

African American women (24%), white women (20%) and Latinas (16%) reported higher rates of domestic violence than Asian/Pacific Islander women (6%). Overall, self-reported domestic violence surveys indicate that 17% of females in the county have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner since age 18.



African American, white women and Latinas reported **HIGHER RATES OF**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

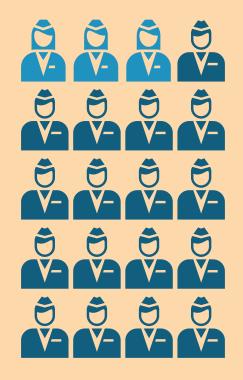
than Asian American and Pacific Islander women.

Veterans 7

Los Angeles County has a greater percentage of women veterans in the 18-34 age range than any other age group.

It is estimated that women represent 6% of all Los Angeles County veterans, and women comprise 15% of the youngest bracket of veterans, ages 18–34. White women comprise the majority of county female veterans, followed by Latinas and African American women. Of all veterans in Los Angeles County, men and women, 15% are estimated to be homeless.

15% of Los Angeles County veterans in the 18-34 age group are women



To read the full Los Angeles County Supplement to the 2014 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California, please visit: **statusofwomen.msmc.la.edu.** A complete list of footnotes is also included in the full Report.

County Overview sources:

- County of Los Angeles, "Roster of City Officials for Los Angeles County"
- County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health, "Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County 2013;" "State Data: Center for Disease Control, National Vital Statistics, 2010-2011;" "Injury and Violence Prevention Program;" Signhal, R. and Lee. W, "Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County: Highlighting Disparities by Ethnicity and Poverty Level"
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive
- State of California, Department of Finance, "California and its Counties' Population by Age, Race and Gender: 2000-2010"
- State of California, Department of Education, "Enrollment by Gender, Grade and Ethnic Designation for 2012-2013;" "Cohort Outcome Data By Gender for the Class of 2011-2012;" "2013 STAR Test Results"
- State of California, Department of Veteran Affairs, "2012 Estimated Number of Homeless Veterans by County"
- The State of Women-Owned Businesses Report 2013, commissioned by American Express OPEN, "A Summary of Important Trends, 1997-2013"
- UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2009 California Health Interview Survey
- U.S. Census data, American Community Surveys



For more information on this report please call 213.477.2764 or visit statusofwomen.msmc.la.edu



Join the conversation at facebook.com/msmcstatusofwomen

Prepared by



Chalon Campus

12001 Chalon Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90049

Doheny Campus

10 Chester Place Los Angeles, CA 90007

www.msmc.la.edu

facebook.com/msmcla twitter.com/msmcla instagram.com/msmcla